AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-14 (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A clamp assembly for interconnecting components in a fluid system comprising:

two interconnected clamp members that form a channel, wherein each clamp member includes two sidewalls and an outer wall disposed between said sidewalls to cooperatively form said clamp member channel having a generally octagonal shape;

a fastener disposed in a longitudinally extending bore for interconnecting said clamp members;

a spacer disposed within said channel, wherein said spacer includes a centrally located bore defining a part of a central passageway for the transmission of a fluid and a transversely extending bore for receiving [[a]] the fastener for retaining the clamp members together;

two opposed port members disposed in said clamp member channel with said spacer therebetween, wherein each port member includes a center portion with a clamping portion at one end of said center portion and a connecting portion at the opposite end and a longitudinally extending bore defining part of the central passageway for the transmission of the fluid; and

a flange extending radially from each port member clamping portion, wherein said flange has an octagonal shape corresponding to that of said clamp member channel, so that a plurality of clamping forces from said clamp members are directed radially inwards from points of contact between said flanges and said clamp members to provide cross loading.

16. (Original) A clamp assembly as set forth in claim 15 further comprising a mounting bracket for holding the clamp assembly.

17. (Previously Presented) A clamp assembly as set forth in claim 15 wherein a free edge of each sidewall has an octagonal shape to define an opening corresponding to the octagonal shape of each port member flange.

18. (Original) A clamp assembly as set forth in claim 15 wherein said spacer includes an annular groove for receiving a sealing means.

19. (Original) A clamp assembly as set forth in claim 18 wherein said sealing means is an O-ring.

20. (Previously Presented) A clamp assembly as set forth in claim 15 wherein one port member is an inlet port member and the other port member is an outlet port member.

21. (Previously Presented) A clamp assembly as set forth in claim 15 wherein each port member connecting portion has an octagonal shape for interconnecting the fluid system components.

22. (Currently Amended) A clamp assembly for interconnecting components in a fluid system comprising:

two interconnected clamp members that form a channel, wherein each clamp member includes two sidewalls and an outer wall disposed between said sidewalls to cooperatively form said clamp member channel having a generally circular shape;

a fastener disposed in a longitudinally extending bore for interconnecting said clamp members;

a spacer disposed within said channel, wherein said spacer includes a centrally located bore defining a part of a central passageway for the transmission of a fluid and a transversely extending bore for receiving [[a]] the fastener for retaining the clamp members together;

two opposed port members disposed in said clamp member channel with said spacer therebetween, wherein each port member includes a center portion with a clamping portion at one end of said center portion and a connecting portion at the opposite end and a longitudinally extending bore defining part of the central passageway for the transmission of the fluid; and

a flange extending radially from each port member clamping portion, wherein said flange has a circular shape corresponding to that of said clamp member channel, so that a plurality of clamping forces from said clamp members are directed radially inwards from points of contact between said flanges and said clamp members to provide cross loading.

23. (Original) A clamp assembly as set forth in claim 22 further comprising a mounting bracket for holding the clamp assembly.

24. (Previously Presented) A clamp assembly as set forth in claim 22 wherein a free edge of each sidewall has a circular shape to define an opening corresponding to the circular shape of each port member flange.

25. (Original) A clamp assembly as set forth in claim 22 wherein said spacer includes an annular groove for receiving a sealing means.

26. (Original) A clamp assembly as set forth in claim 25 wherein said sealing means is an O-ring.

27. (Previously Presented) A clamp assembly as set forth in claim 22 wherein one port member is an inlet port member and the other port member is an outlet port member.

28. (Previously Presented) A clamp assembly as set forth in claim 22 wherein each port member connecting portion has an octagonal shape for interconnecting the fluid system components.

29. (Previously Presented) A clamp assembly as set forth in claim 22 wherein each port member connecting portion has a circular shape for interconnecting the fluid system components.

30. (Previously Presented) A clamp assembly for interconnecting components in a fluid system comprising:

two interconnected clamp members each having a C-shape that form a channel;

a spacer disposed within said channel, wherein said spacer is generally circular and includes a centrally located bore defining a part of a central passageway for the transmission of a

fluid, and a transversely extending bore for receiving a fastener for retaining the clamp members together;

at least one port member disposed in said clamp member channel adjacent said spacer, wherein said port member includes a center portion with a clamping portion at one end of said center portion and a connecting portion at the opposite end and a longitudinally extending bore defining part of the central passageway for the transmission of the fluid; and

a flange extending radially from said port member clamping portion, wherein said flange has a predetermined shape corresponding to that of said clamp member channel, so that a plurality of clamping forces from said clamp members are directed radially inwards from points of contact between said flange and said clamp members to provide cross loading.

31. (Previously Presented) A clamp assembly as set forth in claim 30 wherein each clamp member includes a longitudinally extending bore for receiving the fastener for interconnecting the clamp members.

32. (Previously Presented) A clamp assembly as set forth in claim 30 further comprising a mounting bracket for holding the clamp assembly.

33. (Previously Presented) A clamp assembly as set forth in claim 30 wherein each clamp member includes two sidewalls and an outer wall disposed between said sidewalls to cooperatively form said clamp member channel.

34. (Previously Presented) A clamp assembly as set forth in claim 33 wherein a free edge of each sidewall has a predetermined shape to define an opening corresponding to the predetermined shape of said port member flange.

35. (Previously Presented) A clamp assembly as set forth in claim 30 wherein said spacer includes an annular groove for receiving a sealing means.

36. (Previously Presented) A clamp assembly as set forth in claim 35 wherein said sealing means is an O-ring.

37. (Previously Presented) A clamp assembly as set forth in claim 30 further comprising two port members disposed in the clamp member channel, wherein one port member is an inlet port member and the other port member is an outlet port member.

38. (Previously Presented) A clamp assembly as set forth in claim 30 wherein said port member flange and said clamp member channel each have an octagonal shape.

39. (Previously Presented) A clamp assembly as set forth in claim 30 wherein said port member connecting portion has an octagonal shape for interconnecting the fluid system components.

40. (Previously Presented) A clamp assembly as set forth in claim 30 wherein said port member flange and said clamp member channel each have a circular shape.

41. (Previously Presented) A clamp assembly as set forth in claim 30 wherein said port member connecting portion has a circular shape for interconnecting the fluid system components.